

Freedom Pass circuit

Section 20: West Ruislip to Amersham

Distance: 12.89 mi, 20.62 km (original route) ; 13.06 mi, 20.90 km (modified route)

Introduction

This is a very long section across three zonal boundaries in a north-westerly direction. Some of the paths in the earlier part of the section may be a little overgrown, and some may be muddy, so suitable trousers and footwear are advisable and plenty of time should be allowed.

An additional problem with this section at the time of writing is that much of it (especially the first half) follows closely the route of HS2. The locations of the works to build the line seem to be fairly volatile. So at any time you may find that part of the route is blocked. The itinerary given here includes a diversion between the Grand Union Canal and the M25.

This section almost entirely avoids roads. Several parts of the section are shared with other named routes.

There are places to eat in West Ruislip, Harefield, Horn Hill, Chalfont St Giles and Amersham. The gap between the Coy Carp and Dumb Bell is about 50 minutes. Milton's House (NT) is in Chalfont St Giles.

Directions

Cross the road in front of West Ruislip Station and turn right.

Take the first left, just after Ickenham Close on the right.

Keep straight ahead along the tarmac path.

When the tarmac path bends right, bear left onto the sandy path, and go through the green kissing gate.

Go straight on at the intersection, when the Hillingdon Trail (currently closed) joins from the left.

Bear right at the next intersection, and then take the second left over the footbridge.

Bear left onto a minor path and enter the bushes. Go past a stile and then turn right.

At the end turn left, opposite Old Clack Farm. This is where we leave the Hillingdon Trail.

Keep on the track, which soon becomes a road, until you reach a main road.

Turn right, and then very shortly go over a stile on the left.

Cross the field, heading towards a small white and green gate, and go through it.

Carry on in the same direction towards a tall hedge. When you get to it, skirt round its right-hand end, and then carry on in the same direction as before, along the right-hand

edge of a field.

Continue up the hill and go through the remains of a stile at the top. Then turn left.

Go through a small gate and turn right.

Keep along the edge of the field.

Cross the farm track and enter the next field.

Bear left and cross the field diagonally, aiming towards to middle of the lower edge.

Turn left along the track, and shortly after bear right, and cross a small field.

Go over a stile, cross the road, and continue along the track opposite, and then turn right onto another track.

At this point there may be a diversion due to HS2. If so, just follow the path anti-clockwise round the site. After a right bend just before the end of the diversion, keep straight ahead.

On reaching the wood, go through the kissing gate on the left.

Keep going in the same general direction, initially with the edge of the wood on your left, and later with a horse-ride on your right.

Eventually, after a gentle climb, you reach a cross-track. Turn left and go up the steps out of the wood.

Keep straight ahead on the path along the right-hand edge of the field.

At the next corner, bear right to exit the field, then left, past a stile, across a track, and through a kissing gate.

Keep straight ahead up the path.

At the top, bear left and then go through a gap with a stile on the right.

Keep going in the same general direction along the left-hand edge of a succession of fields.

Pass to the right of a kitchen garden wall and then enter the wood, bending left.

Once in the wood, keep straight ahead on the main path. Turn left at a T junction. Pass the churchyard on the left.

At the corner of the churchyard, go straight on (away from the churchyard).

After a culvert, before you reach an access road, bear right.

Keep on the main path. Just before emerging from the wood, turn right.

At the end, turn right along the main road, rejoining the Hillingdon Trail.

As you approach the brow of the hill, turn left into Bird Lane.

Go through the green kissing gate, down into the valley and up the other side.

At the top, turn left.

Keep straight ahead. The path descends through the trees and then diagonally crosses a field, to the Grand Union Canal.

Go over the stile, and carry on parallel to the canal.

Cross the canal at Black Jack's Mill. Here we leave the Hillingdon Trail and join the

TFL London Loop. Carry on along the towpath in the same direction as before.

At the Coy Carp, go up the ramp and turn left along the road, leaving the London Loop again.

Turn left again, before the Coy Carp's carpark, onto a footpath.

Keep on the path as it takes you between two lakes.

At the road, turn left and then immediately right.

At the next road you should go straight ahead (and then later turn right) – but this is currently impossible because of HS2. So instead turn right along the footpath that runs alongside the road.

At the roundabout turn left. Advance as far as the barrier, then skirt round the green fence to the right on a service road.

At the corner of the fence, turn left and follow the fence along the edge of a couple of fields.

At the next corner, climb over a flimsy wire fence and climb up the embankment ahead.

Turn left along the slip road, then right to cross over the M25.

On the other side, skirt round the black fence, turning right once and left twice and climbing over a wooden fence.

Then turn right into Shire Lane. We are now back on the proper route.

When the road bends left, carry straight on.

On reaching the next road, go straight on.

Go straight on at the next junction, by the Dumb Bell.

Then shortly after, go through the gap on the left, and take the rightmost of the two paths across the field.

At the other side, go through two kissing gates, and along the left edge of the next field.

After another kissing gate, the path goes diagonally across the next field.

After the next kissing gate, go straight on.

Keep straight ahead, through several more kissing gates.

Just before you reach a road, turn right then left to cross the road.

Carry on along the footpath next to Ashwell's Farm.

Go through a pair of kissing gates, then take the middle of three paths, which goes diagonally across the next field.

Go through a kissing gate and another gate and across another field diagonally.

After another kissing gate, the path descends.

Go straight across the main road.

The path carries on downhill, then towards the parish church of Chalfont St Giles.

Keep straight on, alongside the churchyard.

Cross the High Street, turn right along it then immediately left along the track just beyond Up Corner (Stratton Chase Drive).

Carry on past the wooden gate, then fork right.

Keep straight on, briefly joining a road and leaving it again.

We now go for several miles, virtually in a straight line, along a well-defined path, variously called the Chiltern Way or the South Bucks Way. There are a few gates to go through. The path goes along the west side of the valley of the River Misbourne. A main road can be heard making its way along the east side.

After crossing a couple of minor roads, bear right at a fork.

Pass a couple of very large fields on the left.

If the ground to the right is inundated:

Bear left then right, and carry on in the same direction along the left-hand of three further fields.

When another path joins from the left, bear right.

The path becomes a track and goes through an underpass.

Bear right at the fork.

Cross the main road, and turn left then right into the carpark.

Go over a pedestrian crossing, then skirt round the supermarket anti-clockwise.

Turn right over a footbridge, then right again.

Turn left along the edge of the field.

At the top, carry on along the right-hand edge of the next field.

Turn right into the wood.

Go straight across the intersection, then bear right downhill.

At a crossing with another path, turn left.

At the end turn right.

Cross the road, and carry on along the footpath opposite.

The first turning left takes you over the railway line to Amersham Station.

If it is not:

Turn right

Cross the River Misbourne and turn left alongside it.

Enter a wood.

Go under a main road.

At the next road, go into the carpark of the Chequers and out through the gate at the back. Keep left and go up the driveway to another road.

Cross this road, and carry on along the path opposite.

Turn right by the corner of the hedge on the right.